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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: BUSH'S INAUGURAL SPEECH, U.S.-
CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

11. Bush's Inaugural Speech

A) "Taiwan Will Not Be Alone on Its Road to Fight
against Totalitarianism and Tyranny"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" editorialized
(1/27):

". Honestly speaking, President Bush's inaugural address for his second term may be viewed as the most idealistic speech since [President] Kennedy's in the 1960s, as it was able to precisely demonstrate the spirit of the founding fathers of the United States, which has been passed on through the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. .

". President Bush's address is both enlightening and inspiring. Some people may question the United States' on-going war on terrorism, but without the American people's willingness to shoulder the costs of war and to sacrifice themselves, how could tyrannies like Saddam Hussein's regime and the Taliban regime ever be overthrown? How long will the oppressed people of Afghanistan and Iraq wait for the day when they can be the masters of their countries?

"In the real environment of the international community, China is sometimes regarded by the United States as a 'strategic rival' or a 'strategic partner.' It is nonetheless a power that the United States cannot deny or not interact with. . China may share something in common and can thus work with the United States on certain issues of practical interest, but Taiwan's ideal to implement democracy and freedom, and its protection of human rights and social justice can all the more permanently match up with the spirit on which the United States was founded. It is the right direction for Taiwan to choose democracy and independence. Judged by the spirit conveyed by President Bush's inaugural speech, Taiwan people will never feel lonely when they choose to walk on the road that insists on human dignity and resists totalitarianism and tyranny. It will and must win the moral support of all democracy- and freedom-loving peoples."

B) "From Axis of Evil to Outposts of Tyranny"

Lin Cheng-yi, Research Fellow and Director of the Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University, noted in the centrist, pro-status quo "China Times" (1/27):

". The Bush administration, during its second term, will shift its foreign policy-making center to the State Department headed by Condoleezza Rice, and it will attach great importance to public diplomacy and transformation diplomacy. .

"The Bush administration wants to promote democracy and freedom outside the United States, and it has announced that the United States will work with Taiwan to introduce Taiwan's democratic experiences to other countries. Taiwan rarely has a chance to play the role as leverage between China and the United States. The Bush administration's announcement of its foreign policy direction and the forming of Taiwan's new cabinet as well as its renewed focus on democratic diplomacy have all joined together to shed some light on the stalemated mutual trust between Washington and Taipei."

12. U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations

A) "Taiwan Needs Strategy to Deal with PRC Law"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" commented in an editorial (1/27):

". For the PRC, the anti-secession law would be only a

transformed version of its 'one China principle.' In other words, Beijing is asserting the right to unilaterally define the status quo and block Washington and, of course, Taiwan itself from promoting their own definitions.

"The anti-secession law aims to serve as a major piece of propaganda and a diplomatic leverage to subvert the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

"In addition, the Chinese Communist Party aims to impose its own model of martial law on Taiwanese citizens who express views, whether in China or in Taiwan, that are not in accordance with Beijing's ambitions to annex Taiwan.

"In any case, it is evident that Beijing's anti-secession law is a logically absurd feint to provide a legal pretext for the CCP's intention to annex Taiwan by any means necessary, including military force. .

". [T]he best policy for Taiwan may be to energetically explain to the world the nature of Beijing's game but to adopt a more moderate stance in action in order to earn international sympathy."

B) "U.S. Policy an Obstacle for Taiwan"

Lin Cheng-yi, Director of the Institute of European and American Studies at Academia Sinica, said in the pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" (1/27):

". US policy is contradictory, and it has a double standard toward democracy. It supports Taiwan's democracy, but does not support its desire for self-determination. The US either acknowledges or agrees with China's 'one China' principle, but doesn't have the courage to openly regard Taiwan as a part of China. As such, the US is clearly giving in to Chinese pressure.

"Given the ambivalent US position, both sides of the Taiwan Strait urgently want the US as their partner to put pressure on their adversary.

"While both sides of the Strait hold fast to their political strategies, they assume a moderate attitude when dealing with minor issues, but use this to convey to the US that their side is flexible in negotiations. Against this backdrop, the belief that the US should be a helper rather than an adversary in cross-strait relations is beginning to take shape.

"The greatest danger for [President] Chen is to find himself simultaneously fighting Taiwan's opposition parties, China and the US at the same time. The reasons the US is dissatisfied with Taiwan, apart from other issues, is because of requests that the US reassess its 'one China' policy, improve its treatment of visiting Taiwanese officials, opposition boycotts of the arms deal and its suggestion that it would target Shanghai in the event of a cross-strait war.

"In contrast, the instances in which the US has harshly criticized China have decreased, while Taiwan's domestic situation has become increasingly divided. In the eyes of the US and China, it is Taiwan which seeks to change the status quo.

"This may be because of successes in Chinese propaganda, but this is how the situation is perceived. It also goes to show that if Taiwan carries on with the 'two governments' in the US [i.e. the executive branch and the Congress], it will find itself fighting opponents both inside and outside the country."